

of Secretary, Ministry of Power has submitted its report recently. Ninth Five Year Plan which is under finalisation, would take into account the recommendation of the Working Group depending upon the feasibility of the projects and economy level considerations.

#### **Construction of Duplex Apartments**

**658. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE:** Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have taken a decision to demolish certain "Lutyen's bungalows of preindependence and construct duplex apartments there;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the objective behind this move; and
- (d) by when the work of demolition/construction is likely to start?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU):** (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Does not arise in view of reply to (a) above.

#### **Merger of PFC and IDFC**

**659. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI:** Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government propose to merge Power Finance Corporation (PFC) with the Infrastructure Development Finance Company (IDFC);
- (b) if so, the advantages of merging these two financial institutions; and
- (c) the steps taken in this direction?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI):** (a) There is presently no proposal under consideration to merge the Power Finance Corporation (PFC) wth the Infrastructure Development Finance Company (IDFC).

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

*[Translation]*

#### **Package Programme**

**660. SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI:** Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the names of the State which have been included in the Package Programme for carrying out development works;
- (b) the nature of assistance extended to these States;
- (c) the amount of assistance provided to the hilly

regions like Kashmir and Eastern States as per the announcements made by the Hon. Prime Minister for providing crores of rupees to these States for the implementation of the schemes;

- (d) the number of people provided assistance so far; and
- (e) the details thereof, State-wise?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH):** (a) to (e) The Prime Minister has recently announced programmes/schemes/projects for the economic development of the Seven North Eastern States viz., Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura and the State of Jammu & Kashmir. The details of the New Initiatives announced for the North Eastern States are at Statement-I enclosed. As regards J & K, the Prime Minister had made announcements on the Floor of Parliament on 23rd July, 1996 and 2nd August, 1996. A further statement was made by the Prime Minister regarding J & K during his visit to Jammu on 14th February, 1997. A copy of the statement made on 14th February, 1997 is at Statement-II enclosed. The details of Central assistance for various projects/schemes etc. are contained in the above announcements. Since infrastructure projects have also been announced, the details regarding the number of people assisted under such various programmes/schemes cannot be easily estimated.

#### **Statement-I**

##### **New Initiatives for North Eastern Region**

My first visit to the Seven states of the North-East has come to an end. To me this has been a very moving experience. The warmth of the people here will bring me back. I came to the area to know the people their aspirations, their problems, how they feel and what they think. I came with an open mind. I am going back with pleasant memories and with a firm resolve to work with the people to mark a new beginning in the development of this region. Wherever I went, the people from different sections of the society came and met me in large numbers. They were friendly and frank in expressing their views, their desires, their apprehensions and their hopes. The warmth which they extended throughout my visit has really overwhelmed me.

I am fully convinced that the problems can be resolved if all of us work together and look ahead jointly towards a better future. I am thankful to the people for showing so much love and affection for me during the visit.

I have also met at each Capital, a cross-section of people like leaders of political parties, chiefs of autonomous

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Text of the Prime Minister Shri H.D. Devegowda's statement on new industries for North-Eastern Region at a Press conference at Gwahati on October 27, 1996.

district councils, representatives of Non-Governmental Organisations, student unions, women's associations, church leaders and the press; in addition to Ministers, State Government officials and officials of security forces, to get a first hand account of the conditions in these states.

The North-Eastern region is endowed with abundant natural resources. In fact, Assam was in the forefront of the economic development of the country 100-150 years ago. It was a pioneering state and enterprising entrepreneurs invested in the development of tea plantation, oil, coal mining, forestry, railways and inland waterways. However, in the recent years investors have shunned these areas because some of these states turned inward-looking while others have been afflicted by militancy and terrorism. This has set in a vicious circle of terrorism, discouraging investments and economic development, leading to growing unemployment which in turn provided recruits to militancy. Today, there are no major industries or other economic activities which can absorb the educated unemployed. The only avenue for employment in almost all these states is Government service. However, Government service cannot absorb too many people. Also, too many people in Government service only breed inefficiency. The only way out of unemployment or militancy is massive all round economic development leading to prosperity.

#### **Question of Foreigners**

One of the important factors impinging on the identity of the people of the North-Eastern states is the question of foreigners. I have reviewed this issue in some details during my discussions with All Assam Students Union and also several others. It was represented that the laws existing for the detection of foreigners such as Illegal Migrants' Determination by Tribunal (IMDT) Act, 1983 as amended have not proved to be effective. We would take steps to repeal the ineffective laws and strengthen the legal and administrative measures for dealing with foreigners in consultation with the states. Further, the policing of the border including fencing at appropriate places would be strengthened.

#### **Identity of Ethnic Groups**

The other important factors which led to militancy and is leading to unrest in some of the states is the feeling of loss of identity by various ethnic groups and the feeling that the centre has been giving step-motherly treatment to this region. These feelings may or may not be entirely justified. But the feeling is certainly there. It would be our endeavour to remove this feeling and to see that the basic infrastructure in this region is developed to reach the standards in the rest of the country in a specific time-frame. I believe that India as a whole cannot progress unless every state including the seven states of the North-Eastern region keep in step with the rest of the country.

#### **Senseless Violence**

For too long, senseless violence has prevailed in some of the states of North-East. For too long, certain misguided

elements have been killing their brothers and fellow citizens and resorting to extortion and kidnapping. Violence cannot achieve any political objective. I would like to appeal to all those who have taken to the gun to see the path of reason. I believe that all problems can be solved by mutual discussions. I am giving an open invitation to any group of individuals including militants and without any precondition to meet me to discuss their legitimate grievances. I genuinely wish to understand their points of view and what exactly is troubling them. At the same time, I would like to clearly state that violence would not be tolerated and would be put down with a firm hand. We also want friendly relations with all our neighbours and we would expect them not to encourage or allow cross-border terrorism of support militant groups from India.

Tackling unemployment would require productive investments in the area. With this view, as a first step, my government would take the following measures.

#### **Commission to Determine Gaps In Infrastructure and Backlog in Basic Minimum Services**

A high-level commission will be appointed within 30 days to critically examine the gaps in important sectors, specially in power, communication, railways, roads, education, agriculture etc. The commission will also critically examine the backlog in the Basic Minimum Services in the seven North-Eastern states. The commission, after assessing these requirements will suggest policies, programmes and fund requirements to bridge the gaps in the infrastructural sectors and the backlog in Basic Minimum Services in the seven North-Eastern states. The commission will submit its report within three months and the Planning Commission will take the recommendations of the commission into consideration and formulate specific programmes and funding arrangements for the development of the North-Eastern states in the Ninth Five Year Plan. Adequate additional funds will be provided on an annual basis over and above the annual Plan allocations in the Ninth Five Year Plan to achieve these objectives.

#### **Priority for Creation of Employment Opportunities for Educated Unemployed**

A high-level expert committee will be appointed within one month to examine all aspects of the problem pertaining to the educated unemployed in the North-Eastern region and will urgently suggest specific steps to promote employment among the educated unemployed in the North-Eastern states. Relevant infrastructure, extensive training and schemes for productive employment generation, specific for each of the North-Eastern states will be established in each North-Eastern state. The high-level committee will submit its report within three months and recommend a blue print for time-bound implementation. The recommendations will be implemented by the State Governments and the relevant national level institutions/Central Ministries straight away. We will also give high priority for employment generation in the North-East in the Ninth Plan.

Experts from the North-Eastern region would be

associated with both these committees on infrastructure and employment.

#### **North East Sub-Plan in all Central Ministries/Departments**

All Central Ministries/Departments will earmark at least 10% of their budget for specific programmes in the North-Eastern States. They will also ensure that the programmes are speedily implemented.

#### **Visits and Intensive Monitoring by Central Ministers/Secretaries**

Ministers and Secretaries in-charge of the Central Ministries/Departments, specially those in-charge of the Social Sectors, Petroleum, Surface Transport, Railways, Civil Aviation, Tourism and Water Resources would tour all North-Eastern states at least once in a quarter and pursue the implementation of their plans and programmes.

#### **Full Funding of the On-going Projects**

A number of important projects in the North-Eastern region concerning highways, railways and power are not progressing satisfactorily for want of adequate funds. Full funding will be assured to all on-going central projects including Numaligarh refinery. The Home Ministry, the Planning Commission and the Cabinet Secretariat will regularly monitor these projects on quarterly basis to ensure that these are completed as per schedule.

#### **Comprehensive Water Management and Flood Control Measures**

Control of floods and water management are extremely important to the economy of this region. I have recently appointed a High-level Commission for suggesting urgent measures for comprehensive water management in our country. This Commission would examine and make recommendations on flood control and comprehensive water management aspects in North-East also. The Brahmaputra Board will be immediately activated to prepare a list of projects relevant for flood control, power generation and water management. Dredging operations will be launched to make inland waterways more efficient in the discharge of water and for transport. All Brahmaputra flood control project works henceforth will receive 100% grant from the Centre.

#### **Full Coverage through Employment Assurance Scheme**

Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS) will be extended to all blocks in the North-Eastern states by March 31, 1997.

#### **Extension of Border Roads/BADP Programme**

The Border Area Development Programme as well as Border Roads Programme will be extended to some more areas in the Indo-Myanmar border also as represented by some states.

#### **Full Coverage of North East through Telecommunication and Electronic Media**

Telecommunication/TV/AIR coverage will be accelerated so as to cover 100% of the population from Mizoram, Nagaland, Manipur and Arunachal Pradesh by the end of Ninth Plan. At least Rs. 50 crore will be separately earmarked for this purpose.

#### **Improved Credit Flow to North East**

A special cell will be set up in the Reserve Bank of India under a Deputy Governor to ensure that more credit is made available to industry, agriculture and for self employment schemes.

#### **New Industrial Policy**

A new Industrial policy specific to the North-Eastern region and its requirements will be considered and announced by March 31, 1997 to promote private investment, both domestic and foreign.

#### **Decentralisation**

In this region, there is a need for greater decentralisation at the District and Sub-district levels so that people are involved in the decision making process. The government of India will actively promote such decentralisation.

#### **Development of Tourism**

An integrated Tourism Development Plan for the entire North-East as a whole is under formulation. This will develop some tourist circuits covering several states.

#### **Strengthening of Central Agencies**

The presence in the North-Eastern region of certain central agencies concerned with the promotion of agriculture, trade and industry-like National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), various commodity boards will be strengthened.

#### **Export Policy**

Commerce Ministry will work out an export policy including border trade for North-Eastern region aimed at promoting trade with South-East Asia.

#### **Measures for Control of Narcotics and AIDS**

Centre would take immediate measures to strengthen the institutional arrangements and programmes in some of the North-Eastern states for control of AIDS, narcotics trafficking and drug addiction and provide adequate funding for all these purposes.

#### **Improvement In Railway Services**

The performance, punctuality and service by Railways in the region will be improved. On-going railway projects such as new lines, gauge conversion etc. will be completed soon with adequate funding. The new railway lines proposed by the states without rail-head or very limited access would be included on priority.

I intend to visit North-Eastern region at least two times in a year to satisfy myself that the plans and programmes for development in these are implemented properly.

Finally, as already stated by me, the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) will ensure that all these commitments and the package of programmes and schemes being launched forthwith are implemented according to the time schedules announced and regular monitoring is done of progress in implementation.

There are, of course, several other items raised during my visit. On returning to Delhi, I shall hold consultations with the Planning Commission and other Central Ministries and take decision on these issues also within the next one month. The Chief Ministers will be further consulted on these issues before final decisions are taken.

#### **Need for Wholehearted Cooperation**

In the above endeavour, I solicit the wholehearted cooperation of all the Chief Ministers, political parties, student unions, media and the people at large in these states. We should all work together to launch a drive for peace and harmony in the troubled states. It is necessary to create a suitable atmosphere of confidence and optimism for this. Abiding peace must replace the current conflict, harmony must replace hatred and mutual trust must replace suspicion. We are all sons and daughters of the same country. We are all one family. Our future and prosperity are common to all of us. We must share our concerns and prosperity I would also request the state governments to improve the performance of their bureaucracy, take steps to eliminate corruption and to fine-tune the Government machinery for better delivery of services. I am sure, I will have the full Cooperation of all people of the North-East judging from the tremendous enthusiasm and response the people gave me during my visit.

The state governments proposed, during discussion with me, various projects which will need to be taken up for implementation. We have examined all the proposals. A list of important projects State-wise which Government have decided to take up is given below.

#### **Mizoram**

- Sanction for Turnal Hydro-Electric Project at an estimated cost of Rs. 425 crore will be accorded this year.
- Sanction for one State Referral Hospital with selected specialities and 200 beds at an estimated cost of Rs. 40 crore, land to be provided free of cost by State Government. The State and Central Governments will jointly prepare the project report by December 31, 1996 for sanction before March 31, 1997.
- Sanction for Phase-II of the Aizawl Urban Drinking Water Supply Scheme including Sewage at an estimated cost of Rs. 130 crore. Centre will provide 75% of the funds and the balance 25% by the State Government. The work will be completed within three years.

- Border Roads/BADP with an outlay of Rs. 30 crore will be sanctioned for implementation for 1997-98 onwards.
- One Industrial Growth Centre with central subsidy of Rs. 10 crore will be sanctioned this year.

#### **Tripura**

- Kumarghat-Agartala Railway Project at an estimated cost of Rs. 525 crore. Adequate funds will be provided in each year of the 9th Five Year Plan to complete the same within 5 years.
- Two India Reserve Battalions (IRB) will be sanctioned before March 31, 1997 (estimated cost Rs. 10 crore).
- Rs. 34 crore will be provided for upgradation of facilities at Agartala Airport.
- One LPG Bottling Plant will be established (Rs. 15 crore).
- One Industrial Growth Centre with central subsidy of Rs. 10 crore.
- Upgradation of State Highway from Agartala to Sabroom at a cost of Rs. 60 crore in the 9th Five Year Plan.

#### **Manipur**

- Upgradation/widening of NH-53 by Border Roads Organisation at an estimated cost of Rs. 130 crore will be sanctioned before March 31, 1997 and work commenced in 1997-98.
- Rs. 17.10 crore will be sanctioned for the infrastructural facilities for National Games, 1997 in Imphal.
- An Industrial Growth Centre with central subsidy of Rs. 10 crore will be sanctioned this year.
- An LPG Bottling Plant for Manipur will be sanctioned (Rs. 15 crore).
- Phase-II of Project of upgradation of RIMS, Imphal at an estimated cost of Rs. 90 crore will be sanctioned by March 31, 1997.
- Loktak Down Stream HEP will be sanctioned this year at an estimated cost of Rs. 426 crore.
- Construction of border road linking Maram (NH 39) to Phaibung (59 Kms) at an estimated cost of Rs. 15 crore will be sanctioned this year.

#### **Arunachal Pradesh**

- Sanction for water supply schemes for Itanagar and Naharlagun (estimated cost Rs. 36 crore) would be accorded as soon as the project report is received from the State Government.
- An Institute for Bio-diversity studies (estimated cost Rs. 10 crore)
- Construction of new airport at Itanagar to be taken up

during the 9th Five Year Plan at an estimated cost of Rs. 50 crore. Land to be provided free of cost by the State Government.

- The Government of India will actively promote investment in Arunachal Pradesh, especially in the fields of hydel power generation, tourism and agro-processing.
- Improvements to Leelaban Airport including extension of runway etc. at an estimated cost of Rs. 12.50 crore will be sanctioned before March 31, 1997.
- The proposal for extending NH-52A from Itanagar to Gohpur would be considered and sanctioned in the 9th Five Year Plan.
- Two India Reserve Battalions (IRB) would be sanctioned for Arunachal Pradesh by March 31, 1997 (estimated cost Rs. 10 crore).
- The Central Government will provide 75% grant for construction of new Assembly Hall at Itanagar for which foundation stone was laid 10 year back by Late Rajiv Gandhi.

#### **Nagaland**

- Additional funds required for the completion of Doyang HEP (Rs. 127.80 crore over two years) will be provided.
- Helicopter services would be provided between Guwahati to Dimapur and Kohima with 75% central subsidy (Rs. 15 crore per annum).
- Four-laning of 17 km of NH 39 will be sanctioned at a cost of Rs. 38 crore.
- Development of Dimapur Airport (extension of runway and installation of ILS (Rs. 15 crore).
- Rs. 10 crore to be provided for additional infrastructure for University of Nagaland.
- Upgradation of District Hospital for referral facilities at Kohima (Rs. 25 crore).
- Setting up Industrial Growth Centre with central subsidy of Rs. 10 crore.
- Gauge conversion work of Dibrugarh-Dimapur section would be sanctioned.
- Additional allotment of Rs. 10 crore for housing to Village Development Boards under Indira Awaas Yojana.
- Rajdhani Express to Delhi from Dimapur via Guwahati will be introduced.
- Indian Airlines will operate from Dimapur to Delhi via Gawahati thrice a week.

#### **Assam**

- Additional funds of Rs. 55 crore would be provided in 1996-97 to complete rail-cum-road bridge at Jogighopa. Rs. 120 crore for 1997-98 to fully complete the project.

- Proposal for road-cum-rail bridge at Bogibheel. Rs. 1,000 crore will be sanctioned this year and the work to be commenced next year and completed within the 9th Five Year Plan.
- Upgrading Guwahati Airport as hub centre for the North-East and develop it as an international airport (Rs. 128 crore).
- Three industrial Growth Centres will be set up with central subsidy of Rs. 10 crore each (Total Rs. 30 crore).
- Centre would take up flood control works on Brahmaputra as central sector project and provide Rs. 500 crore in the 9th Five Year Plan as central grant.
- An LPG bottling plant will be set up at a cost of Rs. 24 crore.
- Government of India would finalise the 'on account' royalty rates for the three year period 1996-99 by the end of November 1996 and payments at these rates would be made to Government of Assam by December 31, 1996 including the arrears from April, 1996.
- Upgradation of Guwahati Medical College will be considered.

#### **Meghalaya**

- Indira Gandhi Health Institute for which foundation was laid in 1986 would be taken up for full completion in a time-bound manner.
- Rs. 50 crore for Shillong by-pass road and the implementation expedited in the 9th Plan.
- Railhead within Meghalaya at Burnihat from Guwanati would be provided and work on this would commence as soon as the required land is made available by the State Government.
- The Umroi Airport would be extended and upgraded during the 9th Plan period and work would commence as soon as land is made available.
- New Satellite Township near Shillong would be established during the 9th Plan period by obtaining funds from external financial sources.
- A Regional Biological Products unit will be established in Meghalaya as recommended by State Government at a total cost of Rs. 3.5 crore.
- Sanction will be accorded for widening of NH-51 near Tura.
- An Industrial Growth Centre with central subsidy of Rs. 10 crore would be sanctioned.
- An institute of Hotel Management at Shillong would be set up at Shillong.
- Construction of Dowki bridge connecting Meghalaya and Bangladesh would be taken up urgently with assistance from Government of India.

For too long senseless violence has prevailed in some of the states of North-East. For too long, certain misguided elements have been killing their brothers and fellow citizens and resorting to extortion and kidnapping. Violence cannot achieve any political objective. I would like to appeal to all those who have taken to the gun to see the path of reason. I believe that all problems can be solved by mutual discussions. I am giving an open invitation to any group of individuals including militants and without any precondition to meet me to discuss their grievances. I genuinely wish to understand their points of view and what exactly is troubling them. At the same time, I would like to clearly state that violence would not be tolerated and would be put down with a firm hand.

—Shri H.D. Deve Gowda.

Prime Minister

I am fully convinced that the problems can be resolved if all of us work together and look ahead jointly towards a better future. I am thankful to the people for showing so much love and affection for me during the visit.

—Shri H.D. Deve Gowda,

Prime Minister

#### **Statement-II**

*Statement of the Prime Minister at Jammu on 14 February, 1997*

Friends,

A popularly elected government has been installed in Jammu and Kashmir after nearly a decade. I do not have to go through the details of the travails and tribulation, the State and the people have passed through in these years because of the proxy war launched by the neighbour and their agents. There was a massive participation of the people in the polls which were conducted in a very peaceful and orderly manner. The international community has acknowledged the genuineness of the elections. The massive mandate given by the people to this government imposes a tremendous responsibility on them in meeting the expectations of the people and in reviving the economy of the state. I would like to state very categorically and with conviction that the Government of India and the entire Nation is behind the State and the people of Jammu and Kashmir in this massive endeavour.

I have visited Jammu and Kashmir twice before and this is my third visit. I have looked at some of the very important proposals and projects which are vital for the development of the State, but which were not making adequate progress for want of funds. The massive 290 Kms. Udhampur-Baramulla railway line, estimated to cost Rs. 2,500 crores and which can provide large scale employment could not be taken up by the Railways for want of funds. We have decided after reviewing the whole matter, to take this up as a "Project of National importance"

and to provide necessary funds outside the Railway Plan. Work on this project will be simultaneously started from both sides. The Uri Hydro Electric Project which was dedicated to the Nation yesterday, was completed in record time inspite of disturbed conditions in the Valley. We have decided to provide full funds of another Rs. 300 crores to complete the remaining work of the Uri Project. The entire power available from Uri Unit-I will be made available to the State. Another important hydro electric project—the Dul Hasti Project, where work was suspended since 1992 is being revived. We have taken a decision to ensure full funding of the remaining Rs. 3,000 crores required for the completion of this major project.

In the meanwhile, allocation of power to J & K is being increased to 876 MW to fully meet the power shortage in the State. The State should strengthen the transmission and distribution to utilize this power. We will extend support to the state to exploit its hydel potential through Investment Promotion.

The State Government have recently presented a Memorandum indicating certain projects and proposals which need to be taken up on a high priority, to put the State economy back on the rails. I and some of my Ministerial colleagues had detailed discussions on these proposals yesterday with the State Cabinet. In principle, I am in full agreement with these priorities and we need to devise ways and means to implement these in a spirit of joint endeavour between the State and the Centre. As you are aware, Government is about to finalise the Ninth Plan of the State and we need to incorporate some of these developmental projects in the Ninth Plan of the state and the Centre.

We shall devise special funding mechanism including external assistance for implementation of projects such as (a) Protection and Development of Dal and other important lakes, (b) masterplan for control of floods in the valley and (c) action plan for improving the navigation and environmental aspects of Jhelum on the lines of Ganga Action Plan.

The States Annual Plan has reached a record high of Rs. 1,250 crores this year. The State Government will be enabled to have a reasonable 9th Five Year Plan, starting with a good annual plan of 1997-98. Necessary Central support will be provided for this purpose so as to ensure that the plan outlay fixed for each year is protected and funds are also made available for meeting the non-plan gap in resources.

The demand of the State Government for waiver of Central debt amounting to Rs. 1,275 crores would be looked into sympathetically and a decision taken soon. A Central team will be deputed for discussion in this regard with the State Government in the near future. The State will also be assisted in phasing out the chronic overdraft problem.

The Central outlay on rural development and basic minimum needs in the State has been enhanced consid-

erably. Nearly Rs. 1500 crores will be provided to the State in the Ninth Plan. The Central Government would provide the requisite additional assistance to restore militant damaged infrastructure.

National Highway I-A will be upgraded and strengthened. An outlay of Rs. 140 crores will be made available to Border Roads Organisation to undertake this task.

Mughal Road will be taken up and implemented on a priority basis at a cost of Rs. 150 crores, which will be shared equally between the Central Government and State Government.

As a special dispensation more towns in J&K will be brought under the Prime Minister's Integrated Poverty Eradication Programme.

Orders declaring Jammu as a B-2 Category City will be issued shortly.

The Indian Council of Agricultural Research has already sent a high level technical team and in consultation with the State Government, a decision will be taken to start the Agricultural University at Jammu from the next year.

Some other proposals of the Memorandum given by the State Government need to be examined in detail in consultation with the respective departments of Government of India and need to be defined. However, I would like to once again state that availability of funds is not the main constraint or the critical issue. What is required is devising carefully worked out programmes and projects and their effective implementation so that the benefits of these programmes and projects reach the people. I would also lay stress on close monitoring of implementation so that the funds allocated are utilised purposefully.

There are certain other proposals relating to the facilities to be provided for return of migrants, etc. I am hopeful that the popular Government would be able to initiate proper measures to instill confidence in the migrants as well as take assistance of the local population so that migrants would be able to return to their homes in the Valley at the earliest. I would like to assure that financial constraints would not be allowed to come in the way of implementation of this.

The Central Government shares the concern of the State Government regarding provision of employment opportunities for the youth of the State. Special recruitment drives will continue to be made to ensure that youth of this state will be absorbed to the maximum extent possible in central establishments and even in private sector. However, more thrust has to be given to implement available programmes by encouraging people to take to self-employment. It would also be necessary to devise new programme for enhancement and upgradation of traditional skills, undertaking of new technologies, etc. The youth of the State are well known for their marketing and skills in salesmanship. Government would explore possibilities of earmarking some land for the setting up of specialised

industrial estates and shopping complexes inside and outside the State to provide self-employment opportunities.

However, progress on these fronts would pick up speed as normalcy on the law and order front improves. Some of the discredited elements, are disrupting the economic progress of the State by resorting to bandhs and hartals. Government cannot allow these activities to go unchecked. Economic progress and peoples well-being cannot be secured unless these activities are squarely faced. In dealing with these elements, it is necessary not only to approach it from the law and order point of view, but also deal with them politically.

I want to assure the people of the State that the Centre and State Government are one and will together deal with these special problems of Jammu and Kashmir. I would like to reiterate that this is a national responsibility to bring about resolution as well as reconstruction of the torn economy of the State. This national endeavour should be approached in a non-partisan manner. The entire country is behind you.

*[Translation]*

#### **Metalled Roads**

661. SHRI MUNAWWAR HASSAN: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that no metalled roads, have been constructed in rural areas of Uttar Pradesh particularly in Kairana-Muzzafarpur Constituency;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the details of total amount granted to Public Works Departments for repair of roads in the rural areas during the current years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRADEO PRASAD VARMA): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

*[English]*

#### **Supply of Drinking Water In Metros**

662. SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the total demand of drinking water in all the Metros in the country;

(b) the total shortfall in supply of water to the Metros;

(c) the steps taken to improve the water supply to the Metros;

(d) whether the World Bank has given any special project loans for improving the water supply; and